

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, on rare occasions during our lifetimes, we have the opportunity to encounter an extraordinary individual. One such individual is John Nathan Sturdivant, president of the American Federation of Government Employees. His recent death was a heavy blow for Federal workers, their families, and for all of us who admired the qualities that he brought to his work.

John Sturdivant served our country as a member of the Armed Forces and as a civilian employee. As a leader of the AFGE, he continued to serve by representing the Federal employees who translate policy in the actual operations of the Federal Government. To this task, John Sturdivant brought the qualities of vision and leadership. He supported Federal employees working with managers to make Government more efficient, productive, and cost effective. At the same time, he remained a labor leader, dedicated to the principle of collective bargaining and the dignity of working people.

May I conclude, Mr. Speaker, with a personal note. John Sturdivant displayed throughout his final months extraordinary bravery and commitment. He worked without ceasing as long as he was physically capable. His attitude and demeanor never reflected his pain and distress. He was devoted to the AFGE, its principles and its people to the end of his life. His dedication to service on behalf of the American public was unflinching. All of us who address the public interests can only hope to live up to the standards set by John Sturdivant.

John Sturdivant had the capacity to inspire loyalty and the ability to enlarge the vision of those with whom he worked. These are the qualities of a true leader.

To his daughter Michelle, to his family and to the membership of the American Federation of Government Employees, we extend our deepest sympathy. John Sturdivant was one of those who made the world a better place than he found it. He will be deeply missed by all of us.

#### THE UNITED STATES-CARIBBEAN BASIN TRADE PARTNERSHIP ACT

(Mr. BEREUTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the United States-Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act, because it will strengthen the mutually beneficial relationship that exists between the United States and the smaller countries of the Caribbean Basin.

Due in large part to the Caribbean Basin initiative, which was proposed by President Reagan in 1982 and passed by the Congress in 1983, trade between the United States and Caribbean Basin nations have more than doubled in the past dozen years and now equal close to \$30 billion a year. During that time, U.S. trade with the CBI region has generated roughly 18,000 new export-ori-

ented jobs each year. What was once a trade deficit of \$2.7 billion with the Caribbean is now a United States trade surplus of over \$1 billion.

Mr. Speaker, passage of H.R. 2644 will strengthen the United States-Caribbean Basin trade partnership while at the same time enhancing the competitiveness of United States firms and workers. I strongly urge my colleagues to support this important bill.

#### VOTE "NO" ON NAFTA EXPANSION

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, let there be no mistake. The vote today on the Caribbean Trade Partnership Act is a litmus test from the White House. They want to pass NAFTA expansion, and the President is twisting arms. In fact, the President is reminding everybody that we must build a bridge to the 21st century.

Now, if that is not enough to repave your off ramp, here is how that bridge really works. The bridge brings in Mexican tomatoes, Canadian beef, illegal immigrants, narcotics, and everything under the sun made in China and Japan. The bridge takes away American jobs. The bridge takes away American factories. The bridge destroys American families.

Beam me up. That is not a bridge the White House is selling; that is a toll road leading to a dead end for American workers. Vote "no" today on that partnership act, vote "no" on NAFTA expansion.

I yield back the liberal wage jobs we keep sending overseas.

#### FAST TRACK IS CRITICAL TO THIS COUNTRY

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, the House is scheduled to vote this week on a matter essential to the economic vitality of this country, a vote to extend fast track trade negotiating authority to the President. Fast track is a crucial partnership between the President and Congress. My colleagues will remember that Presidents Nixon, Carter, Reagan, and Bush all used this authority to negotiate open markets with foreign governments in good faith.

The United States has benefited from these negotiations. Since fast track expired in 1994, foreign governments have refused to enter into trade negotiations with the United States. These countries continue to open trade and investments for their own companies and their own workers, while retaining barriers against U.S. exports.

Without fast track, we risk being left behind. It does not force Congress to give up its power to oversee the nego-

tiations. Congress simply agrees to vote on a completed trade agreement without any changes. Fast track is critical to this country, to the U.S. leadership in the global economy. Support the extension of fast track.

#### THE TIME IS NOW FOR CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

(Mr. MILLER of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, the Senate has now agreed to a date for a full and fair and open debate on campaign finance reform next March. The American public wants this done, and I believe the majority of Members of the House want this done.

The time has come now for the Republican leadership to agree to set a date for that debate. That debate must be open, it must be fair, it must allow for the consideration of the competing bills for reforming our campaign finance reform system. There is a rule that is at this desk, or a discharge petition to create a rule that would allow that debate on those competing items for reform.

The time has come for the Republican leadership to get out of the way, let the Congress have that debate, let the public watch that debate, because they are hungry for campaign finance reform.

We have spent a year listening to and discovering scandals on both sides of the aisle on the misuse of campaign money, on the overwhelming onslaught of soft money in our system. The time has come to reform it. Mr. Speaker, do it now. Give us a date before we leave town.

#### PRESIDENT'S POSITION ON TAX RELIEF IS PUZZLING

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if some of my liberal friends on the other side of the aisle can help me with a question that is puzzling me. Why is it that it is selfish when we wish to keep what belongs to us, whereas it is compassion when we wish to take what belongs to another? I suppose by your own logic, it is selfish to lock your doors at night when you want to keep what you have earned.

I guess all of the hard work and sacrifice that goes into earning what belongs to you, that is forgotten, because the liberals are busy today talking about how compassionate they are spending other people's money.

Now we have the President of the United States on record showing what side he is on. Yesterday he called those of us that want tax cuts selfish. The President thinks that ordinary Americans ought to be condemned for thinking that the Government could get by on a little less, that families ought to have a little bit more.

It is kind of puzzling, is it not?

#### NEBRASKA NEEDS FAST TRACK

(Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, Nebraska needs more export opportunities abroad in order to attract and retain businesses and jobs. Nebraska needs fast track.

From 1987 to 1996, Nebraska's exports increased almost 646 percent. Our top exports in 1996 were food products at \$1.4 billion, followed by agriculture and livestock at \$229 million, industrial machinery and computers, \$193 million, electronic equipment at \$131 million, and so on and so forth.

Last year our top exporting partners were Japan, Canada, Korea, and Mexico. Without fast track, any of the export gains that we have made could be wiped away as our trade competitors negotiate anti-U.S. trade deals. It simply makes no sense to me why some want the United States to unilaterally disarm itself at the trade bargaining table.

I encourage my colleagues to examine their own States' trade history to see how exports have helped create jobs at home. If your State's history is anything like mine, the answer will be pretty obvious. The United States needs fast track.

#### AMERICAN PEOPLE SAY TIME FOR TAX CUTS

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, President Clinton traveled to Virginia yesterday and told voters who favored a tax cut that they were selfish. I am not kidding, he really said that.

In Virginia, like most places, working families pay Federal taxes and State taxes, excise taxes, sales taxes, property taxes, and on and on, but Virginia, many folks pay a particularly odious tax, a car tax, a tax on their own personal vehicle which they must pay to the government year after year again and again. The Republican candidate for Governor of Virginia pledged to eliminate that tax, and that has made the President very angry.

President Clinton is showing us the fundamental difference between conservatives and liberals once again, between those of us who think working Americans pay too much tax and those that believe that the government can always bleed those so-called selfish taxpayers a little bit more.

Mr. Speaker, today the so-called selfish taxpayers and voters of Virginia get to respond to the President. I wonder what they will have to say to him.

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#### THE TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT OF 1997

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, a copy of an internal IRS document sent to my office clearly shows that the IRS is using a quota system in evaluating employee performance, despite the fact that using quotas was made illegal 9 years ago. This memo clearly shows the handwritten comments of an IRS supervisor stating that the monthly total collected by this employee is only 13 percent of the expected or required total. When confronted with this evidence, the IRS took a play right out of the plausible denial handbook of the White House; oh, yes, they said, we are not using quotas, these are just goals.

Plausible denial or goals, whatever the name is or that the IRS assigns to this practice, it must be stopped. I have introduced the Taxpayer Protection Act of 1997, which will once and for all end quotas for the IRS. IRS agents should be determining the correct amount of tax dollars owed, not trying to inflate their numbers so that they may be considered for a promotion.

I urge my colleagues to join me in a fight to once and for all end the use of quotas.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN CARTER, FIREFIGHTER

(Mrs. MORELLA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to John M. Carter, a firefighter in the District of Columbia who died last month in the line of duty. John Carter was a hometown hero, one of a special breed of men who put his life on the line on a constant basis to protect his community. He was the son of a retired Montgomery County, MD, fire chief, and the brother and brother-in-law of two D.C. firefighters. The Washington Post called him "one of a special breed of heroes that the District of Columbia is fortunate to have on its side."

John Carter routinely faced the searing heat, choking smoke, clouds of toxic chemicals, and hazardous traffic conditions. He was a First Battalion sergeant who was the first to go into the burning building at Fourth and Kennedy Streets, Northwest. This was typical for John Carter, who is a 15-year veteran firefighter. When the roof collapsed, John Carter was trapped inside, and it was impossible to escape to safety. John Carter's death at age 38 in the line of duty was a tragedy. He is one of those unsung heroes who provides the highest quality of service to our citizens.

I rise to pay tribute to him, his brave family, his wife Deborah, and his son

Brian. They deserve the highest recognition for their courage, commitment, and the sacrifices they have made on behalf of all of us.

#### AN APOLOGY TO VIRGINIANS

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I got up early this morning and went jogging down Independence Avenue. As I did, a lot of hard-working men and women were coming in from Virginia to work. It was early in the morning for these two-income families. They work hard, and they raise kids. Statistically, many of them have two kids. They help them with their homework, try to teach them responsibility. These parents volunteer at the school and the church and the United Way. They often have to sacrifice. They cannot go on vacation because they have to buy a new dryer or a new set of tires. They might have to buy braces for the 14-year-old.

But yesterday, the President of the United States told these hard-working men and women that if you vote Republican today in Virginia, you are selfish. Paying 38 percent total household taxes is not enough. You have to pay more, the President of the United States told these hard-working men and women.

I would say to them that they are doing their best, they are paying taxes, they are not taking things out of society, they are earning their way, they are teaching their children to earn their way, and they are going to become future taxpayers. They are doing more. I wish we had more of these selfish people, Mr. President. I think you owe the people of Virginia an apology.

#### "SELFISH" AMERICANS WANT MORE TAX CUTS

(Mr. BOEHNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year a Treasury Department official described Americans who wanted further tax relief as "selfish." Two weeks ago the minority leader in the other body said, and I quote, that he did not think most Americans were overtaxed. So perhaps it should not come as any surprise when I picked up the paper this morning to learn that the President described the people of Virginia as selfish for supporting a tax cut. According to the Washington Times this morning, the President is miffed that voters still want tax cuts, even though the economy has improved.

I have news for the President, the economy has improved because of the hard work and ingenuity of the American people. They work hard to feed their children's appetites, not Washington's appetite to spend money.